

EMS for Colleges and Universities

Peggy Bagnoli
EPA New England

Overview

- ◆ Highlights of Regional Activities
- ◆ EPA New England's College and University Initiative
- ◆ Overview of the College and University EMS Pilot Project
- ◆ Benefits of an EMS
- ◆ Keys to Success
- ◆ In Their Own Words....
- ◆ Summary–Perspectives from EPA New England

Note: Information on Benefits of an EMS and Keys to Success were taken from GETF's
9/12/01 previous presentations.

Highlights of Regional Activities

- ◆ Region 2: Encourages institutions to take advantage of EPA's Audit Policy.
- ◆ Region 3: Communicating compliance and encouraging the use of environmental management systems and self-audits.
- ◆ Region 9: Invited Arizona schools to participate in a RCRA-focused Audit policy initiative.

College and University Initiative

- ◆ Region I is using an integrated, strategic approach that includes:
 - Enforcement
 - Assistance
 - Innovation
- ◆ Project XL – Laboratories

Where Do Compliance Problems Occur?

- ◆ Laboratories
- ◆ Technical shops: auto body, print shops
- ◆ Art Departments
- ◆ Power Plants
- ◆ Boiler Rooms
- ◆ Maintenance Facilities
- ◆ Automotive Fleets
- ◆ Cafeterias

Audit Policy Initiative

- ◆ Provides an incentive to enhance compliance and encourage behavioral changes.
 - Policy allows for penalty reductions of up to 100%
 - Categorized as low inspection priority
- ◆ Initial phase would establish a basic awareness of regulatory compliance.
- ◆ Move participants towards continuous improvement by implementing “EMS”.

EMS Implementation Guide

- ◆ Tailored specifically for C/Us
- ◆ A “blueprint” that demonstrates a recommended EMS process for development and implementation
- ◆ Provides examples (environmental policy) and tools (checklists, matrices/charts, etc.)
- ◆ Will be used as a training tool for the EMS Pilot Program

EMS Pilot Program for Colleges and Universities

◆ Overall Objectives

- Assist a variety of colleges and universities to implement an EMS
- Spur greater adoption of EMSs in the college and university sector
- Document the benefits of an EMS

Drivers for Colleges and Universities

- ◆ compliance responsibilities
- ◆ management confidence
- ◆ organizational factors
- ◆ public image concerns
- ◆ improved regulatory relationships
- ◆ privatization
- ◆ growth management
- ◆ leadership and innovation
- ◆ environmental education opportunity

Benefits.....

- ◆ Reduce the risk of non-compliance
- ◆ Improve staff and faculty understanding and competence
- ◆ Cost-saving opportunities
- ◆ Improved public perception
- ◆ Improved communication both inside and outside the organization
- ◆ Partnership and Networking

Reduce the Risk of Non-Compliance

- ◆ Colleges and Universities are “under the microscope”
- ◆ The EMS promotes thorough knowledge and understanding of environmental regulations

Cost-Saving Opportunities

- ◆ Improved Financial Performance
 - Savings due to operational changes and more cost-efficient approaches
 - Reduced costs of liabilities, fines, and response to noncompliance
 - Selection of materials and methods with lower costs of disposal and recycling

Improved Public Perception

- ◆ Improved relations with regulators and communities
- ◆ Opportunity for leadership and innovation within the public sector
- ◆ Public confidence in the quality of services provided
- ◆ Improved sense of professionalism

Improved Internal Operations and Communication

- ◆ There is a clear and explicit designation of responsibility
- ◆ All staff whose work directly affects the environment are appropriately trained
- ◆ Better communication about environmental issues inside and outside the organization
 - able to communicate better with other agencies, municipalities and neighbors
 - a vehicle to capture employees' good ideas for improvement
- ◆ "The environment is everyone's job"

Partnership and Networking

- ◆ Team approach to environmental responsibilities
- ◆ Opportunity to share/exchange experiences w/ other colleges and universities
- ◆ Opportunity to partner with EPA New England other C/Us on a proactive project

Keys to Success

1 - Top Management Commitment, Visibility and Involvement

- ✓ An EMS cannot succeed without the full support and backing of top-level management
- ✓ Commitment can be difficult to obtain where there is lack of understanding of EMS in general and the associated benefits

Keys to Success

#2 - Strong Implementation Team

- ✓ Essential for development and implementation of the EMS policy and procedures
- ✓ EMS “Champion” needed to assemble the various working teams and lead the effort
- ✓ Should have specialized training and knowledge
- ✓ Responsibilities and authorities need to be defined and supported by management

Keys to Success

#3 - An Informed and Involved Workforce

- ✓ Successful implementation of an EMS requires the ongoing input and action of employees across the organization
- ✓ Training on EMS should begin immediately upon the decision to implement

Keys to Success

#4 - Don't Reinvent the Wheel

- ✓ Build on existing organizational processes and procedures
- ✓ You probably have many EMS elements in place

In Their Own Words....

“At Boston University, our management system successfully integrates environmental programs with health and safety. The foundation of our system is an "EHS Policy Manual" with 24 short, plain-English policies that serve as a practical guide to the entire community"

Peter Schneider, Director,
Office of EH&S, Boston University

In Their Own Words....

"An EMS can serve as a blueprint for colleges and universities to plan, direct and facilitate their environmental programs. The EMS should provide an encompassing view of the necessary considerations in the college's management of environmental affairs."

Alan Cantara, EH&S Manager,
Rhode Island School of Design

In Their Own Words....

"An EMS has provided a means of empowering all students, staff and faculty to participate in UMass Lowell's environmental program and commitment to sustainability."

Rich Lemoine, EH&S Manager,
University of Massachusetts Lowell

Barriers.....

- ◆ Time
- ◆ Resources (money, staff, etc.)
- ◆ Lack of Commitment and Support

Added Benefits to Participating in the EMS Pilot Program

- ◆ Hands-on Technical Assistance
 - From other C/Us
 - Technical Experts
- ◆ Training
 - EMS Implementation Guide as Curriculum
 - EMS Workbooks/Exercises
- ◆ Opportunity to Partner with EPA
- ◆ On-Site Troubleshooting

Summary – Perspectives from EPA New England

- ◆ Commitment and awareness of environmental compliance obligations must come from highest levels of C/U
- ◆ Must understand compliance obligations
- ◆ Commit resources
- ◆ Approach holistically – environmental management plan
- ◆ Seek continual improvement – go beyond compliance

Timelines

- ◆ Provide Comments to Draft EMS → ◆ August 24, 2001
- ◆ Send in Letter of Intent → ◆ September 1, 2001
- ◆ EMS Pilot Project Start Date → ◆ October 1, 2001

EPA New England College and University Contact

Compliance Assistance

Peggy Bagnoli

(617) 918-1828

Bagnoli.Peggy@epa.gov

EMS

Marge Miranda

(617) 918-1825

Miranda.Marge@epa.gov

<http://www.epa.gov/region1/steward/univ>